

THE
LONDON AND PROVINCIAL
MEDICAL DIRECTORY
UNMASKED.

LONDON:
HUGH HUGHES,
MEDICAL BOOKSELLER AND PUBLISHER,
15, ST. MARTIN'S-LE-GRAND.

MDCCCXLIX.

LONDON:
HUGH HUGHES, Printer, 15, St. Martins-le-grand.



THE DIRECTORY UNMASKED.

A Medical Directory, in which the qualifications and pretensions of the regularly educated practitioner are set forth for the information of the profession, if properly and impartially conducted, there cannot be a doubt would conduce much to their advantage. The profession would be benefited by the means thus afforded of distinguishing between the ignorant pretender and the regularly educated practitioner. But useful as such a Directory, under honest management, might be made ; still, if it be rendered subservient to revengeful purposes ;—if it be made the means of misleading the profession, as to the qualifications of its members, and this from motives of pique and disappointment ; such a management, it is evident, would render the Directory a most dangerous engine—one which might be devoted, by a dishonest and unscrupulous direction, to the very basest and worst of purposes. *Under such a guidance the character and interests of every medical man in the kingdom would be at stake.* Should any dare to interfere with the interests of a protégé or of a relation, or become in any other way obnoxious, such might be held up to the profession in those colours most suited to effect some special purpose, and calculated to minister to revenge.

Notwithstanding that my qualifications have never yet been fairly or accurately inserted in the London and Provincial Medical Directory (although the printed circulars have been properly filled up and forwarded), I have tamely submitted to the injustice ; nor should I now have thought it necessary to expose such gross derelictions, or to bring them under the notice of the profession, were I not prepared with the most satisfactory and convincing

proofs, that these inaccuracies are the offsprings of disappointment and private pique. I shall leave it then to the profession, to determine whether a Directory professing to enumerate and publish *all* the qualifications of every individual member of the profession, be the proper occasion for the display of malice, and the perpetration of such gross injustice and oppression.—It may be necessary to state as a preliminary, that the persons who have thus publicly taken upon themselves to investigate and make public the various attainments of the several practitioners in London and the provinces, and who have thus vested in themselves so much power and control over the interests and privileges of the profession at large, are no other than Mr. Yearsley, the aurist, the same person who so distinguished himself, and acquired such unenviable notoriety by his extraordinary advertisements in the Cheltenham and other Newspapers—and Dr. Tyler Smith his co-partner and brother-in-law. The complaints which I have to prefer against the latter gentleman, will enable the profession to form some rude estimate of his literary and editorial integrity; and to judge how far he can in such a capacity be trusted.

I charge him with having written an anonymous pamphlet, which was widely circulated, in praise of Mr Yearsley his co-partner and brother-in-law. I charge him with having, in his Directory, misrepresented the pretensions of numerous respectable professional gentlemen; and with having omitted some important qualifications, because they refused or neglected to order a yearly copy. When complaints have been made against this glaring injustice, by addressing them to the Editor of a medical journal, he has endeavoured and contrived to stifle them, by some garbled statement in reply; and then refused to give the letters and complaints that publicity, which the importance of the subject required.

I charge him with having refused a review to Mr. Harvey's Synopsis on the Diseases of the Ear—a very able production; assigning as his reason for this refusal, that it would interfere with the professional interests and emoluments of his brother-in-law, the aurist. When Mr. Harvey assured him, that he merely desired to have his production dealt with according to its deserts, he (Dr. Tyler Smith) replied, by inquiring if Mr. Harvey was not in want of an “air-apparatus”; as he (the Doctor) had one for sale; and if he did, and

would call and purchase it, he (*Dr. S.*) would see what could be done with respect to the *Review*.

Are such then the qualifications which Dr. Tyler Smith considers sufficient to justify him in placing himself at the head of a tribunal, which is to have the power of calling before it professional gentlemen of unsullied honour and acknowledged reputation? Where will the vanity and presumption of this person end? I have, I fear, for the interests of my professional brethren, too long overlooked this arrogance—too long treated him with silent contempt. It is high time, however, that this self-sufficient scribbler be called to some account. Notwithstanding Dr. T. Smith's vituperation and abuse of myself, for a period of four years, in the pages of a medical journal, where all opportunity of reply is strictly denied, I have, for some time, enjoyed by far the largest practice of any man in the kingdom, in that class of disorders termed by this mawkish writer "*exceptionable diseases*." This I think a sufficient proof, that his abuse has not materially affected me in the estimation of the public. The continued acknowledgements which I receive from numerous members of the profession, who have had ample opportunities of witnessing the success of my practice; as well as the expressions of gratitude from a host of private patients, fully satisfy me of the value of the treatment, which I have laboured, though to *some extent* in vain, to introduce into this country—I shall now place before the profession, especially, such as may have been misled by Dr. Tyler Smith's absurd, false, and malicious accusations, extracts from my *Work on Spermatorrhoea and Urinary Deposits*, which I trust will enable them to judge how far his strictures and censures have been deserved.

RICHARD DAWSON, M.D.

Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London; &c.

15, *Finsbury Circus*,
January 29, 1849.

EXTRACTS FROM THE WORK COMPLAINED OF.

“AMONG the many works so constantly issuing from the medical press, replete with the most ingenious speculations, and enriched with principles founded upon the closest and most attentive observations, it unaccountably happens, that none have been specially devoted to the subject which constitutes the principal matter of the following pages. Indeed, it would seem not very inconsistent to infer, that, in reality, no such diseases ever existed; or they could hardly have escaped the inquisitive vigilance of modern medicine. Strange, however, as this may appear, such diseases not only prevail, but to an extent hardly to be credited, unless by those who have devoted themselves to inquiries upon the subject. It is true that Impotency is noticed in systematic works upon the practice of physic; but in so vague a manner, and with so little precision, that we rise from the perusal as little instructed as when we sat down. ‘Indeed,’ says Curling, ‘the little information we possess respecting it, is chiefly to be found under the head of Impotency in works on medical jurisprudence; in which it is cursorily considered, principally in relation to points of medico-legal interest, and scarcely at all in reference to practice.’—

“In a practical point of view, the sources of information in this country may be considered as an absolute nonentity; for I hardly know of any, except what their own experience may present to individual practitioners. Nor has this dearth been passed over without heed or complaint. Dr. Smyth (in a paper on Impotency, published in the *Lancet*, August 28, 1841) observes :—‘It is a subject not less interesting to the moralist than to the medical practitioner; and it really is surprising to see, that nothing worthy of notice is to be found on a matter so important, in the various writings of standard authors. This circumstance appears unaccountable, when experience convinces us that sexual weaknesses and imperfections, either hereditary or acquired, constitute the great majority, perhaps nine-tenths of the causes of nervousness, mental imbecility, and derangement. How then are we to account for a fact like this—a fact of such frequent occurrence, and so highly philosophic and instructive as it undoubtedly is—having obtained so little attention?

Can a general feeling of ill-exercised tenderness towards the depraved habits of most of the pitiable sufferers, have operated in preventing them from having been duly investigated, and candidly avowed and discussed; or has it resulted from ignorance? The former we are disposed to think can scarcely have been the case; for with the medical practitioner less frequently, perhaps, than with any other professionalist—from the confidence so readily reposed in his calling—does delicacy or prudery supersede utility.’

“Perhaps the neglect with which practitioners have treated the subject of Impotency may be explained by the fact, that, unless in the case of physical defects, we had no means of forming the diagnosis of such cases, nor were we capable of discriminating them from the mere common derangements of health. It is to the MICROSCOPE that we are chiefly indebted for the new light thrown upon this disorder. The discovery of the *spermatozoa* naturally led to the inquiry, what was the object of their existence in the spermatic fluid? Their existence in the seminal secretions of all animals proved that their presence was essential, and philosophy soon cleared up the mystery. Hence, the presence of these animalcules in the urethral discharges, and in the urine, furnished means for the diagnosis of this kind, hitherto one of the most obscure and intricate forms of Impotency.

“A residence for some time upon the Continent, and the kindness of the surgeons in charge of the large hospitals in France and in Germany, afforded me opportunities of inquiry, which I must have sought for in vain at any of the establishments in this country. The facilities, and the means of such investigation, are less repugnant to the habits and customs abroad than at home. Notwithstanding, however, the numerous and valuable opportunities afforded me on the Continent, I feel that I owe it to common justice, were I actuated by no more worthy feeling, to express my sense of the obligations I am under to my friend and colleague, Dr. Venables, and to Mr. Quekett, Conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, for assisting me in many of my microscopical researches.”*

* “On Spermatorrhœa and Urinary Deposits. Fourth Edition”.†—London: Hugh Hughes, Medical Bookseller and Publisher, 15, St. Martin’s-le-grand.

† Pages xi. xii. and xiii.

SYMPTOMS.

“The symptoms of the disease about to be considered, bid defiance to anything like classification or nosological arrangement. Thus, sometimes there is general nervousness : sometimes the most violent palpitation of the heart from the slightest mental emotion, presents the principal feature.

“The sterile, or impotent patient, almost invariably exhibits a peculiarity of temper ; and his general deportment even undergoes a remarkable alteration. His temper, for instance, is extremely irritable : he is fretful—peevish—discontented ; and his appearance shows a marked degree of melancholy. But such patients are far from being courageous, or excited to anger or resentment, even by those incidents which, in other circumstances, would arouse their indignation. On the contrary, they are timid, fearful, and apprehensive ; and endure injuries which they have neither the spirit nor the courage to resent.—

“Very frequently, if such patients be subjected to proper examination, they will be found to be suffering from pollutions, in some one or other of their forms. It will be found, on strict inquiry, that seminal discharges occur at some periods, even though the patient himself may not be aware of them, especially if at night.

“Nocturnal pollutions, when occasioned by spermatic plethora, may prove beneficial ; provided they do not recur too frequently. But if, on the contrary, they occur too often, the seminal vesicles may either become morbidly irritable,—when emissions will take place from the least possible excitement ; or the contrary condition may supervene ; and the ducts, from debility, perform their offices very imperfectly. In these circumstances, emissions take place without erections, and are not attended with any degree of pleasure. These pollutions are always followed by a feeling of indolence, discontent, disordered imagination, confusion of thought, pains in the back and loins, and a sensation of fulness in the head ; which, however, disappears in the course of the day, and does not re-appear till after another emission.—

“After a time the consequences become more serious, and more

permanent; and two or three days, or more, are required to get rid of them. As yet, perhaps, real disease has not been established; but there are certain indications which must not be overlooked or neglected, and these are threatenings which it will be highly prudent to avert. The presence of well-formed semen in the seminal vesicles, is essential to natural erections, without which neither direct nor indirect excitement would have any influence upon the erectile tissues. Therefore, impotence of whatever description—habitual or acquired—arises from deficiency or total absence of natural stimulus in the vesicles; and is, consequently, a certain sign of the existence of diurnal pollutions.—

“If the atony of the ducts be suffered to continue, these nightly discharges take place without either dreams, emotions, or indeed sensation of any kind.—

“When seminal discharges occur during the voiding of urine, or during a stool, the most dangerous consequences may ultimately ensue, in consequence of their frequent repetition. Such patients ultimately become seriously ill; and Lallemand, whose observations I have always found accurate and faithful, says:—
 ‘These patients soon become ill; their most intimate friends are ignorant of the cause of the various disorders they complain of; the medical man who possesses their confidence, is not better informed; for even the patients entertain no suspicion of the real nature of their complaint. Hence their indisposition is set down to ennui, tendency to melancholy, or hypochondriasis. When their disease assumes a more serious aspect, then the constitution is said to be delicate, impressionable, or unhealthy; and they are looked upon as *malades imaginaires*. They are reproached with too much care of themselves, or an over-fondness for medicine. Medical men in extensive practice, tire of hearing the tale of so long a series of unintelligible and inexplicable maladies; and rid themselves of such patients by recommending them to travel, or a change of air. Charlatans plunder them; officious friends advise marriage, or some sort of occupation to fill up the void in their existence; but all blame them, because none really comprehend the nature of their disorder. Unfit for any serious occupation, and incapable of deep reflection, they become dissatisfied with themselves, and still more so with others. Absorbed in one sole thought, they return

incessantly to themselves to seek for the cause of their lamentable condition, and soon become misanthropical.*

“We have seen that a disease, not only capable of simulating, but which does upon occasion simulate almost every other affection, depends upon a peculiar morbid derangement of the genito-urinary system. True, we find some instances which are attributable to a naturally bad constitution, and hence are purely the result of the infirmities of nature. Others may arise from severe study and sedentary occupation, as shown in the following history:—

“CASE.—A gentleman called upon me in 1846, with a view to my professional assistance, in the following circumstances. He stated that he had but recently left the university; but that for a considerable time before he left, he had read regularly eight or ten hours a day, without being sensible of any very great inconvenience. Confinement, however, and sitting so long in one position, ultimately brought on nocturnal emissions, which went on increasing; till at length he was troubled sometimes twice, sometimes thrice, in the course of the night. On the day following he was invariably stupid and lethargic, with a dull pain in the top of the head, which mostly continued throughout the day, subsiding towards the approach of evening, and leaving him free till after another attack of the emissions.—

“At the first, these emissions did not recur more than once a week, or every ten days. Each attack, however, increased the severity of the head-ache, and he was longer in recovering from its effects. At the same time, his digestion became bad, his eyes weak, and the bowels very much constipated.—

“He applied to many of the profession, and to a physician. This gentleman prescribed for him, and stated that all his miserable feelings would cease as soon as the anxiety occasioned by his approaching examination ceased. After his return home from college, finding he did not recover so soon as he expected, and his family medical attendant having equally failed, he was induced by the promises set forth in the newspapers to apply to some charlatans, carrying on their trade in London. The acids which these persons almost invariably give to their dupes, greatly aggravated the already deranged state of his stomach. He paid them a very large sum, and (as is their plan) in advance, upon the

promise, on their part, of a certain and speedy cure. The vexation, however, from disappointments in the expectations raised, together with the irritation occasioned by their threats of exposure, because he sternly resisted all their further attempts at plunder, greatly increased the nervous trepidations, from which he was suffering so severely. At the time he became my patient, I had great reason to fear that the mental excitement might prove very unmanageable. The pain in the head was excruciating, the palpitations of the heart might have been readily mistaken, by persons unaccustomed to such nervous sympathies, for organic disease of the organ. He also suffered very severely from spinal irritation, which occasioned great unsteadiness of gait. His melancholy and despondency were extreme. All these symptoms were greatly aggravated by the nocturnal emissions; which now, unfortunately, had become much more frequent. I remember calling upon this patient one morning: I found him trembling and shivering, as if suffering in the cold stage of an ague. He attributed these tremblings to two emissions which had taken place during the night. He had all the symptoms of incipient amaurosis, which caused a great degree of despondency; for he had been told by his regular medical attendants, that this might probably terminate in complete blindness. The state of the urine, the stains upon the linen, the seminal discharges at stool, and the weeping from the urethra, gave ample proof that my patient was suffering from *spermatorrhœa* in a very aggravated degree.—

“The cautery was applied to the urethra, and the cauterizations were each attended with marked benefit. He was then treated actively for the threatened amaurosis, and fortunately the eyesight was soon restored. Mineral and vegetable tonics were then prescribed, to invigorate the frame; and they completed the cure which the cauterizations had begun. I have seen this gentleman repeatedly since; and I am happy to say that he is quite recovered, and in the uninterrupted enjoyment of excellent health.”

In consequence of the high eulogiums passed upon me by the author of a small pamphlet, entitled “An Exposure” &c., and whose case I have just detailed, I have been consulted, since its first appearance, by a great number of patients, many of whom had been previously under hospital and other surgeons of the

highest repute practising in the metropolis. Many of these patients came up to London from the country, where they had availed themselves of the very best advice which the provinces could afford. Most of these patients were suffering from *spermatorrhœa*. These gentlemen almost invariably represented to me that, very much to their annoyance, “their disease was pronounced merely imaginary—that there was no real foundation”; an assurance being given, “that all would be soon right, if they indulged in sexual intercourse.” But the disease continuing to advance, the symptoms becoming more severe, and secondary affections of an alarming nature setting in, they were then treated for disease of the heart, lungs, spine, kidneys, &c.—

“Notwithstanding the discharge from the urethra had been repeatedly forced upon the attention—notwithstanding the energy and confidence with which the hope was urged, that if the discharge could be suppressed, recovery would speedily follow, what was the result? All in vain! The ideas of the patient were looked upon as chimerical, and his reasonings and hopes treated as the wild and visionary creations of the hypochondriac! Such has been the plan of treating the miserable victims of this disease; and such must continue to be the mode, so long as false delicacy and mawkish prudery prevail; and that certain of their votaries are allowed to *curb* the *energies* and *stifle* the *researches* of the profession. So long as these tolerations endure, so long will these unfortunates be left to their miserable fate. But there is every reason to hope that the time is approaching, when the mind, emancipated from the thralldom of corrupt and selfish journalism, will apply itself fearlessly to the study of a class of diseases which, though so serious in their consequences, may be said at present to be scarcely known, much less understood. Perhaps it would be impossible to illustrate these principles better than by detailing the following case: *—

“CASE.—A gentleman, a member of one of the learned professions, consulted me about eight months since. He informed me that he was the son of a very eminent surgeon practising in London, and that he had been an invalid for many years. His disease commenced with a frequent desire to pass the urine; the last drops of which he generally found mixed with a thick slimy sub-

stance. He soon found that the desire for sexual indulgence had greatly diminished; faintness occasionally followed the evacuation of the bowels, especially if the evacuation were hard or costive, and forced away by much straining. These symptoms were accompanied with a desire of being quite secluded and alone; he became timid, indolent, irresolute, inactive, negligent in his dress and appearance. He complained of suffering from a peculiar "opening" pain in the top of the head; and this pain was greatly increased after an involuntary emission, which had been frequent of late. There was a feeling of great weakness in the back, and indeed most of the other leading symptoms of *spermatorrhœa*.

"He was under the professional care of his father for some months, but without receiving any benefit. He enumerated many of the most eminent surgeons in London, whom his father had consulted about his case; but the result was the same;—he benefited nothing. He continued going on in this manner for three years; but the disease continuing to increase, and his health becoming seriously impaired, he was recommended to travel.—

"After an absence of eighteen months, he returned home to London, with his general health greatly improved. But the emissions at night, and the seminal discharges at stool, continued with as much violence as formerly. He assured me that he had repeatedly called the attention of his medical advisers to those nocturnal emissions; also to the discharges when at stool, and the weakness and exhaustion which followed. His representations caused only a smile—the smile of incredulity—followed by a hint, that he was 'nervous', and over-sensitive, and that if not very careful, 'he would become *hypochondriacal*'; for the prevention of which he was recommended *marriage*! This advice he followed, and in consequence became a great deal worse. All the symptoms became aggravated, and a number of new ones set in.—

"He suffered from a hard, dry, hacking cough, which induced the belief that he was consumptive. He could not rest at night, from an uncontrollable apprehension of sudden death. Under these circumstances, he called upon me; and I must confess, I hardly ever saw a more deplorable-looking patient.—

"I found both testicles greatly reduced in size; the left very nearly absorbed; veins of the scrotum large, distended

and varicose-looking ; incessant desire to pass urine, which came dribbling away, so that the drops fell at his feet ; eyes dull, heavy, and watery-looking, appearing as if he had been weeping ; the urine, on examination, was found abounding, indeed loaded with, spermatozoa.—

I commenced the treatment of this case by cauterizing the urethra, which was done three times. Marked benefit followed each application. Galvanism was applied along the spine, to give tone and energy to the cerebro-spinal axis. The dry cupping-glasses were also frequently applied, upon the principles set forth by Celsus. This treatment was followed by very marked relief, an evidence of which will be found in the following extract from one of his letters :—“ I sleep well, and my sleep is refreshing. My appetite is good ; and I digest my food well. My nervous symptoms have almost entirely disappeared. I can read four or five hours a-day, and can remember well what I have read. This I think a good sign ; as no doubt you will recollect that, before your treatment, if I attempted to study even for half-an-hour, it was certain to bring back the pain in my head, so as to force me to leave off ; and my memory was so bad, that I could not call to mind a single particular of the subject upon which I had been reading. Since the application of the cautery, I can retain my water for a proper time, and that without feeling any very urgent inconvenience. The inclination as well as the power for sexual indulgence have returned. We are daily receiving the congratulations of our friends, upon the improvement in my health, and the extraordinary change for the better in my appearance. I now feel cheerful, and can enjoy society.—

“ For the first time, I yesterday mentioned to my father that I was wholly indebted to you for my recovery ; but, as I expected, he only ridiculed the idea ;—denouncing it as ‘ *downright nonsense*’, and strongly reminded me of the proverb about the *prophet*.”

“ I think this case will fully bear out the principles which preface its details. Here a surgeon—a gentleman, too, justly eminent for his professional knowledge—sees his own son gradually sinking, the victim of a disease ; and yet his suspicions are not once excited as to the real cause. Nay, such the infatuation, that an honest and disinterested acknowledgment and

avowal of the truth, meet only the reproof of stern and obstinate incredulity. If the profession would give this but one half the attention bestowed upon other maladies, much good would result and a great amount of suffering would be relieved ; and the charlatans who prey upon the miseries and fears of the unfortunate victims, would find their trade neither so prosperous nor so profitable. What is the unfortunate sufferer from spermatorrhœa to do ? Where is he to seek for either consolation or relief ? The bulk of the profession treat him with either derision or irony, or perhaps both. What resource is then left him, but to seek, out of the pale of the profession, that consideration and expectation of relief which its legitimate members deny. If the regular practitioner would but become acquainted with the nature and symptoms of spermatorrhœa,—if the principles of treatment laid down in these pages were more generally adopted, instead of invariably decrying its service or utility,—one of the most fertile and seductive incentives to charlatanism would be most effectually paralyzed—nay, even annihilated.”*

* Pages 106, 107, 108, and 109.

